



BACK TO OUR 'AMPHIBIOUS ROOTS'



In the summer of 2008, then Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway, released a message to all Marines and sailors commanding them to reestablish their traditional roles as "fighters from the sea." Now, after more than 10 years of fighting in land-locked warfare in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Navy's Second Fleet and Marine Corps' [II Marine Expeditionary Force](#) are scheduled to team up Dec. 11 to conduct Exercise [Bold Alligator](#) 2011 – a two-part exercise initiated

by Navy and Marine Corps leadership designed to reacquaint brigade and group level commands with their amphibious doctrine, tactical skill sets and logistical requirements.

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On Tuesday, Rear Admiral Kevin Scott, Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group Two, sat down with the DoD Bloggers Roundtable to talk about 'Bold Alligator 2011'.

[Read or listen to that roundtable discussion >>](#)

NEWS

FEMALE ENGAGEMENT TEAM BUILDS BRIDGES INTO AFGHAN SOCIETY

Engagement teams of female Marines with [Regimental Combat Team 1](#) are bridging the cultural gap that is sometimes at the forefront of the counterinsurgency in Afghanistan, as they patrol the fields, canals and villages of Helmand Province. In Afghanistan's culture, a woman's modesty is a sanctity closely guarded by everyone. But, this specially trained team is able to reach across those boundaries, enabling them to go where male Marines often cannot. The [Female Engagement Teams](#) attach to infantry companies, where they provide security, gather information and search people, vehicles and compounds.

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'AGGRESSIVE WINTER CAMPAIGN' GIVES TALIBAN NO REST DURING TRADITIONAL OFF-SEASON



[Major General Richard Mills](#) told Pentagon reporters that the Marines have no intention of 'throttling back' this winter season. "We are currently executing an aggressive winter campaign that will maintain the pressure on the enemy throughout the traditional off-season over here. We will move into areas he thought unreachable by coalition forces. We will give him no rest. We will interdict his supply lines, and we'll continue to build on success and continue to move to our victory," Mills said via videoconference from his headquarters in Afghanistan's Regional

Command Southwest Tuesday.

[Read Transcript >>](#)

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PAVING THE WAY: MARINE ENGINEERS IMPROVE ROAD

IN SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN

Approximately 50 Marine combat engineers with the California-based [1st Marine Logistics Group](#) recently completed repairs to a well-traveled roadway near Patrol Base Amir in Afghanistan's Helmand Province. Prior to the repairs, portions of the dirt-covered road were deemed unfit for vehicle traffic. Though the road is often used by coalition and Afghan forces, it is also heavily traveled by the local Afghan citizens traveling to the community's weekly markets. The engineering project not only meets the needs of the local Afghans, but provides a sizeable benefit for coalition forces in the area.

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COMMANDANT CALLS JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER ESSENTIAL

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported Thursday that Gen. James Amos, the new Commandant of the Marine Corps, said Wednesday during a visit to San Diego that impending budget constraints will likely force him to make tough trade-offs between comforts for Marines on the home front and the weapons they need in battle. The Marines' most critical program - a special version of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jet under development by Lockheed Martin designed to land



vertically on amphibious assault ships - has been flagged for cancellation by congressional deficit fighters. If the F-35B is canceled, the service has no other option for replacing its aging Harrier jets capable of operating off smaller ships, Amos told reporters. That would eventually leave the nation with half as many ships deploying fighter jets, he said. "There is not a plan B," Amos said, explaining that the Marine Corps needs a jet that can land like a helicopter on smaller amphibious assault ships.

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MARINE CORPS LAUNCHES NEW FACEBOOK APP

[Marine Corps Recruiting Command](#) recently introduced [Marine Connect](#), a new Facebook application which allows Marines, poolees and Marine Corps supporters to network and stay connected. The Marine Connect application for Facebook is a good way for Marines, potential Marines and supporters to network and stay connected with one another. It's a good way for Marines to find others they've served with and it's a good resource for people interested in joining the Marine Corps. The application can give you more information about the Corps or connect you with a local recruiter. Family members can also sign up and show their support for their Marine.

[Learn more about Marine Connect App >>](#)

AUSSIE COLONEL BECOMES HONORARY U.S. MARINE

Retired Royal Australian Marine, Col. Ivan J. Cahill, was awarded the title of Honorary U.S. Marine Nov. 19 for his conduct as the company commander of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, from Dec. 1, 1967 to Dec. 31, 1968 during the Vietnam War. "Wearing the title of United States Marine is challenging, rewarding and earned," said Maj. Gen. James B. Laster, commanding general, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

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EDUCATORS GET TASTE OF MARINE BOOT CAMP



The Pottsville, Pa., Republican Herald Newspaper did a four part series on the teachers, guidance counselors, educators and members of the press that recently joined Marines and recruits at [Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island](#) in South Carolina for a taste of the transformational experience of recruit training. A group of educators from Pennsylvania recently made the trek to Parris Island to help them get answers to questions their students are

likely to ask them as they contemplate a career in the Corps. The week-long immersion experience proved insightful for the high school mentors.

[Republican Herald four part series and slideshow >>](#)

HEROES OF THE WEEK

FALLEN MARINES REMEMBERED DURING EMOTIONAL CAMP PENDLETON SERVICE

Thirteen Marines from [Camp Pendleton](#)'s 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment were saluted Friday morning during a hilltop memorial service at the Marine base in California. With the sound of machine-gun fire from a nearby range echoing in the distance, hundreds of Marines and family members of the fallen troops gathered at the base's Camp Horno to recognize those who didn't make it home alive. The service also honored a Welshman from the British Army who was killed while assigned to the "[Thundering Third](#)" Battalion during its seven-month deployment, which began in April and ended a few weeks ago.

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COMMANDANT AND HIS WIFE TALK WITH 3/5 FAMILY MEMBERS

The North County Times reported Wednesday that Gen. Amos met behind closed doors Tuesday with family members from Camp Pendleton's 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, which has seen 18 of its members killed in Afghanistan, including two announced a few hours after the meeting. The family members' talk with Gen. James Amos, Marine Corps Commandant, went long, forcing him to cancel a scheduled address to a battalion of other troops, including several hundred who arrived home just a couple of weeks ago from a seven-month combat assignment in the war-torn Helmand province. An Amos aide, Maj. Joseph Plenzler, said the general and his wife spoke to about 40 family members of troops assigned to the Sangin district of the Helmand province.

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EVENTS

MARINE BAND PERFORMS IN WINDY CITY

The United States "[President's Own](#)" Marine Band is performing two concerts Wednesday, Dec. 15 at Chicago's Skyline Ballroom. The concerts are free and tickets are available through the [Midwest Clinic](#). Founded in 1798 by an Act of Congress, the "President's Own" is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Today, "The President's Own" is celebrated for its role at the White House and its dynamic public performances. "The President's Own" encompasses the United States Marine Band, Marine Chamber Orchestra, and Marine Chamber Ensembles, and performs regularly at the White House and for more than 500 public performances across the nation each year.



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PISTONS GIVE MILITARY FREE TICKETS TO DEC. 17 GAME

The Detroit Pistons are giving current and retired military personnel free tickets as part of "Military Night" at their Dec. 17 home game against the Los Angeles Clippers. The team says at halftime, 100 people will take the oath at center court to join the Marine Corps. The Pistons say the free tickets are available to service members and retirees who present military ID at the Palace box office in Auburn Hills. The NBA club says the first 10,000 fans at the game also will get an American flag pin. The team says select military members in uniform will sit courtside, thanks to seats donated by season ticket holders.

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